

DRAFT Data Assessment Team (DAT) Conference Call Notes
4/4/13 at 11:00 a.m

Participants: Lucinda Shih (CCWD), Geir Aasen (DFW), Edmund Yu, Elaine Jeu and Wenli Yin (DWR), Elizabeth Leeper (KMTG on behalf of SLDMWA), Jon Speegle (FWS), Owen Lu and RG Fernando (MWD), Eleanor Bartolomeo (SWRCB)

Sacramento River Salmonid Monitoring

Preliminary Rotary Screw Trap (RST) Report			
Species*	FWS Red Bluff Diversion Dam RST (Estimated Passage)	DFW Tisdale Weir RST (Catch)	DFW Knights Landing RST (Catch)
Date	3/12/13 to 3/25/13*	3/25/13 to 4/3/13**	Monitoring discontinued since 12/15/12.
CHNF	38,966	7	
CHNLF			
CHNW	2,079		
CHNS	2,605	8	
Ad-Clipped CHN	Not reported		
SH	159		
Ad-Clipped SH	Not reported		
*Chinook race based on length (Frank Fisher model); CHNF=Fall run, CHNLF=Late-fall run, CHNW=Winter run, CHNS= Spring run. SH = Steelhead. Species are unmarked unless noted as adipose-fin clipped (ad-clipped). Data subject to revision.			

*Fall-run Chinook salmon is the dominant Chinook run during the reporting period, but passage has continued to dwindle down since the reporting period of 2/26 to 3/11. In comparison, there has been an increase in passage for winter-run Chinook salmon, fall-run Chinook salmon, and steelhead since the last reporting period.

**DFW are trying a new maintenance schedule at Tisdale Weir and are evaluating all rotary screw trap data as 24 hours of fishing. For example, the rotary screw traps were started at 0600 hours on 4/2, checked at 1700 hours on 4/2, and then checked again at 0600 hours on 4/3 for a combined 24 hours of fishing. The cones were not lifted during these 12 hour visits. Previously, DFW was sampling at different periods of the day and night at the Tisdale Weir for about 8 hours at each rotary screw trap and lifting the cones afterwards.

Graphical summaries of the monitoring data collected at the Sacramento River and at other locations can be found at <http://www.water.ca.gov/swp/operationscontrol/calfed/calfedmonitoring.cfm>. In addition, the biweekly passage reports of juvenile salmonids sampled at the Red Bluff Diversion Dam are available at http://www.fws.gov/redbluff/rbdd_biweekly.aspx.

Hatchery Release Update

Coleman National Fish Hatchery is planning to release approximately 6.3 million of the 2012 brood year fall-run Chinook salmon into Battle Creek on 4/10 and 4/11. Of the 6.3 million released, about 25% will be adipose fin clipped and coded-wire tagged. Lastly, this release group has an estimated average fork length of about 75 mm.

Delta Fish Monitoring

Starting on 4/1, FWS has discontinued the Kodiak trawl at Sherwood Harbor on the Sacramento River and is now sampling at Sherwood Harbor with a mid-water trawl.

DFW (Region 4) will be taking over the Kodiak trawl at Mossdale for real-time monitoring in order to generate the juvenile Chinook salmon out migration population from the San Joaquin River basin. However, FWS will still be reporting out the data when it becomes available.

Preliminary FWS Trawl and Seine Catch Report from 3/24/13 to 3/30/13				
Species*	Beach Seines	Mossdale Trawl	Sacramento Trawl	Chippis Island Trawl
CHNF	102	4	1	
CHNLF				
CHNW	1			15
CHNS	4	2		1
Ad-Clipped CHN				2
SH				1
Ad-Clipped SH	1	1		2
DSM				1 (71 mm, no expression)
LFS				6 (112 to 120mm, 2 with eggs, 4 with no expression)
SPLT	8			3
*Chinook race based on length (Frank Fisher model); CHNF=Fall run, CHNLF=Late-fall run, CHNW=Winter run, CHNS= Spring run, SH = Steelhead, DSM=Delta smelt, LFS=Longfin smelt, SPLT = Splittail. Species are unmarked unless noted as adipose-fin clipped (ad-clipped). Data subject to revision.				

Information about the Delta fish monitoring data from FWS can also be found at <http://www.fws.gov/stockton/jfmp/>.

Salvage Monitoring

The Jones Pumping Plant ceased water exports and the Tracy Fish Collection Facility ceased salvage operations at 0600 hours on 4/1 due to a scheduled installation of a new hoist trolley beam in the fish holding tank building. Pumping and salvage will return at approximately 0800 hours on 4/15.

Preliminary DFW Salvage Report for Salmonids from 3/25/13 to 4/1/13								
Species	Central Valley Project (CVP)				State Water Project (SWP)			
	Adipose Fin Clipped (Ad-Clipped)		Non-Adipose Fin Clipped (Non-Clipped)		Adipose Fin Clipped (Ad-Clipped)		Non-Adipose Fin Clipped (Non-Clipped)	
	Salvage	Loss	Salvage	Loss	Salvage	Loss	Salvage	Loss
CHNF			17	12				
Total to Date	93	62	48	33	322	1,460	42	178
CHNLF								
Total to Date	165	118	28	18	616	2,780	57	260
CHNW	8	6	16	13	4	18	20	88
Total to Date	67	53	129	98	114	513	138	616
CHNS			32	23			60	254
Total to Date			80	56			66	278
CHNU								
Total to Date			8	5				
SH	83	56	91	62	20	87	64	277
Total to Date	297	202	221	150	174	753	210	907
Notes: -Chinook race based on length (Delta model); CHNF=Fall run, CHNLF=Late-fall run, CHNW=Winter run, CHNS= Spring run, CHNU= Unknown race (Chinook greater than the length-at-date criteria), SH = Steelhead. -Salvage and loss estimates are rounded to the nearest whole fish. -Documentation on how to calculate salvage and Chinook loss can be found at ftp://ftp.delta.dfg.ca.gov/salvage/Salmon%20Loss%20Estimation/ . -Steelhead loss: SWP steelhead loss = salvage × 4.33 and CVP steelhead loss = salvage × 0.68. -Total to date is the total since 10/1/12 (the start of water year 2013). -Data subject to revision.								

Since the reporting period, there has been an increase in salvage of non-clipped fall-run Chinook salmon, but a decrease in non-clipped winter-run Chinook salmon and non-clipped spring-run Chinook salmon. In addition, there appears to be a decreasing trend of non-clipped steelhead salvage and an increasing trend of ad-clipped steelhead salvage.

Preliminary DFW Salvage Report for Smelt and Other Species from 3/25/13 to 4/1/13				
Species	CVP		SWP	
	Salvage	Total to Date	Salvage	Total to Date
DSM*	4	148		112
LFS**	44	111	4	8
SPLT		21	2	78
GST				
WST		4		6
Notes: -DSM=Delta smelt, LFS=Longfin smelt, SPLT = Splittail, GST=Green sturgeon, WST=White sturgeon. -Salvage estimates are rounded to the nearest whole fish. -Total to date is the total since 10/1/12 (the start of water year 2013). -Data subject to revision.				

* Delta smelt <20 mm in fork length were reported in the larval fish samples at the CVP fish facility. In comparison, no delta smelt < 20 mm in fork length were reported in the larval fish samples at the SWP fish facility during the period from 1500 hours on 3/21 to 0900 hours on 3/28.

** Longfin smelt <20 mm in fork length were reported in the larval fish samples at the CVP fish facility. In addition, longfin smelt < 20 mm in fork length were reported in the larval fish samples at the SWP fish facility during the period from 1500 hours on 3/21 to 0900 hours on 3/28.

Salvage information is posted on the salvage FTP site (<ftp://ftp.dfg.ca.gov/salvage/>). If you cannot access the FTP site, you can also go to <http://www.dfg.ca.gov/delta/apps/salvage/Default.aspx> and click on "Salvage FTP Site."

Smelt Monitoring

Smelt Larva Survey #6 was in the field on 3/18 and 3/19. This was the last Smelt Larva Survey of the water year and now all 35 stations have been processed. In summary, DFW collected 109 delta smelt larvae that ranged in size from 5 to 10 mm and 2,990 longfin smelt larvae that ranged in size from 6 to 20 mm.

For more information about the Smelt Larva Survey, please visit the DFW website: <http://dfg.ca.gov/delta/projects.asp?ProjectID=SLS>.

Smelt Working Group

The Smelt Working Group met this past Tuesday (4/2) and recommended that the 14-day average Old and Middle River (OMR) flow be no more negative than -5,000 cfs and the 5-day average OMR flow be no more negative than -6,250 cfs for delta smelt. The FWS determination from 3/12 is still in place and it mirrors this week's Smelt Working Group recommendation.

Similarly, the Smelt Working Group recommended an OMR flow of -5,000 cfs to be protective of longfin smelt.

The Smelt Working Group notes and FWS determinations are posted at http://www.fws.gov/sfbaydelta/cvp-swp/smelt_working_group.cfm.

Delta Operations for Salmonids and Sturgeon (DOSS) Working Group

DOSS met this past Wednesday (4/3) and provided the following updates and recommendations to NMFS and WOMT:

- Starting on 4/1, NMFS RPA Action IV.2.1 (San Joaquin River at Vernalis inflow to SWP/CVP export (I:E) ratio) begins. The current San Joaquin Valley water year type is critical. Therefore, the required I:E ratio is 1:1. Currently, DWR and Reclamation are operating under the minimum combined SWP and CVP exports of 1,500 cfs. Because of this, DOSS advises DWR and Reclamation to consider submitting a plan to NMFS on how to maximize fish benefits since the I:E ratio cannot be met and the projects must operate at the health and safety export level.
 - Additional information about the plan suggested by DOSS and about the requirements of NMFS RPA Action IV.2.1 can be found on [page 67](#) of the 2009 NMFS BiOp with 2011 amendments.
 - Information on how to calculate the 14-day I:E ratio can be found on [page 30](#) of the 2011 DOSS annual report. Additionally, DOSS provided additional information on how to calculate the I:E ratio and advised DWR and Reclamation to use the previous day's Vernalis inflow to determine the 1:1 ratio.
- The first stage trigger of NMFS RPA Action IV.2.3 (OMR flow management) was exceeded on 4/1 when the daily non-clipped steelhead loss density went above 8 fish/TAF and the second stage trigger of NMFS RPA Action IV.2.3 was exceeded on 4/2 when the daily non-clipped steelhead loss density went above 12 fish/TAF. Exceeding the second stage trigger requires OMR flows to be no more negative than -2,500 cfs for a minimum of 5 consecutive days. OMR can be relaxed to -3,500 cfs if no second stage trigger is exceeded during the last 3 days of the action response or to -5,000 cfs if no first stage trigger is exceeded during the last 3 days of the action response.
- Final clarification language for NMFS RPA Action IV.3 (reduce likelihood of entrainment at the salvage facilities) was sent to WOMET and NMFS last week. DOSS advises that these clarifications be accepted starting the next water year. The clarification language can be found in the attachments of the [3/19/13 DOSS notes](#) that are posted online. As a caveat, these clarifications do not represent a formal amendment to the RPA that was done in 2011.

DOSS notes are posted at <http://www.swr.noaa.gov/ocap/doss.htm>.

Operations

Preliminary Summary for 4/4/13			
SWP		CVP	
Clifton Court Inflow (cfs)	1,500	Jones Pumping Plant (cfs)	0
SWP San Luis Reservoir Share (TAF) as of Midnight	521	CVP San Luis Reservoir Share (TAF) as of Midnight	778
San Luis Reservoir Total (TAF) as of Midnight	1,299	American – Nimbus Reservoir Releases (cfs)	1,250
Feather – Oroville Reservoir Releases (cfs)	3,000	Sacramento – Keswick Reservoir Releases (cfs)	5,800
DELTA OPERATIONS			
Outflow (cfs)	~20,700	14-day Average OMR Flow as of 4/3/13 (cfs)	-3,467
X2 (km)	77	5-day Average OMR Flow as of 4/3/13(cfs)	-2,508
E/I (%)	9.1% (14-day average)		

There was a question on how long the Oroville reservoir releases will be maintained at 3,000 cfs. Wenli Yin (DWR) responded that it would depend on the Delta needs, but it could last for as long as seven days.

A summary of daily operations can also be viewed at <http://www.water.ca.gov/swp/operationscontrol/docs/delta/deltaops.pdf>.

Next Conference Call: The next DAT conference call is scheduled on 4/11 at 11:00 a.m. An e-mail update will be sent out before the conference call if an agency representative cannot call in.